

Use of CIA fund explored

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Editor, The News:

One can go batty attempting to correct the errors which appear in print, inasmuch as in these illogical days the distortions and mistaken logic come with the frequency of the drops from a leaky faucet. For instance, in this space I could refute statistically the letter written by the League of Women Voters who believe that the way to win the Cold War is by spending our tax money in a futile foreign aid program. Or I could have taken on the gentleman from Ann Arbor, Mich., who recently wrote that the only way out of Vietnam is to abandon it to the mercy of Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Cong, presuming that Ho would know the meaning of the word, "mercy." However, although disproving such fuzzy thinking would not tax the mental faculties of anybody with common sense, I shall leave that job to John Chamberlain and Bill Buckley, who have been doing a good job of hacking away at leftist cliches in their columns.

But I shall reserve this letter to exploring the bewildering editorial in The News on August 8. It so happens that I have been doing a little studying on the subject of that editorial which was the secret subsidies being given to the National Student Association by the United States Government, notably by the hush-hush Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). What caused my brows to rise was the fact that The News condoned and seemed to support the subsidies. In this regard, we had best look at the record.

First, the article claimed that the NSA was "the largest and oldest and probably the most respectable student association in the United States . . ." The claim to being the largest campus group in the country is pure deceit. There is no such thing as individual membership in NSA. All membership is actually student government membership. Rarely has the NSA gone to student bodies for support, instead preferring to deal with a handful of student leaders. The students on campus are "represented", often unknowingly, by virtue of their student government's membership in NSA! Further, schools with more than one delegation to NSA congresses and be counted more than once in votes. And I have a list of 57 different colleges and universities which

have withdrawn from NSA, many because of its leftist political activity.

Respectable, is it? Then consider these facts. Here are some of the resolutions passed by NSA in recent years:

—Condemnation of the U.S. involvement in the Cuban Bay of Pigs invasion.

—Censure of the U.S. for using military force to suppress the Panama Canal riots in 1964.

—Support of admission of Red China to the United Nations.

—Call for cessation of all bombing of North Vietnam, suspension of all offensive military action in South Vietnam, and inclusion of the National Liberation Front in peace talks.

—Condemnation of U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965.

—Call for creation of a federal police force to protect civil rights activists.

—Endorsement of rent strikes, boycotts, and non-violent civil disobedience.

Yes, the CIA used American tax money to foot the NSA's bills. For what? To represent American students to the rest of the world. The question now arises as to how much the NSA did, and how well it did it. The facts are not encouraging. According to the New Guard, official magazine of Young Americans for Freedom, in an April 1967 editorial, ". . . The CIA and its apologists in the Administration, the Congress and the communications media have done their best to obscure that fact (that CIA money to NSA was used in domestic political meddling) by constant repetition of the litany that 'all the money went for student trips abroad,' or variations of that theme. It simply isn't so. The evidence is that the Central Intelligence Agency was not subsidizing individual students, it was subsidizing an entire organization — an organization as involved in national affairs as in international affairs . . . More than half of the current annual NSA budget is devoted to domestic activities such as civil rights projects and conferences on student government."

The YAF editorial summed up, "The central issue and cause for concern is that the Central Intelligence Agency has been meddling in domestic American politics, using its considerable finances and influence to support

particular political factions over others." In other words, everybody's money went to support an organization which aligns itself with Leftist causes in both foreign and domestic affairs, while claiming to represent U.S. youth to the rest of the world. It is noteworthy that while NSA and left-wing off-shoots were bestowed with money, the conservative groups like Young Americans for Freedom, who could teach the NSA a thing or two about combatting Communism, were by-passed.

Which brings up the final point: did the NSA, in fact, use the money given them to effectively fight Communist activity abroad, and represent American positions at international youth gatherings?

It did not.

The National Student Association, which keeps its tax-exempt status despite political activity at home and abroad (in its 17th national congress NSA passed a resolution urging defeat of resolutions and amendments in the United States Congress which would permit prayer in public schools, and sent copies of the resolution to influential Congressmen, for example), has been an unqualified flop in opposing Red influence in international youth groups. In another article in same issue of the New Guard, former Communist Phillip Luce told how NSA members attended the Communist-spawned and controlled World Youth Festivals. They were totally unprepared to deal with the Red propaganda and organization tactics and were steamrolled in meetings; since anything said in defense of America provoked an argument, the American delegation, including NSA members, meekly let the propaganda go unchallenged. Further, although the CIA allowed the NSA representatives to attend under the guise of the "U.S. Festival Committee," they did so with the knowledge that the U.S. committee was a Communist front, with a Communist Party member as its leader, and other young Reds on its staff giving it its guidance and direction.

If I were a taxpayer, I would wonder what our Congressmen think about it, and suggest that the people start writing some blunt letters.

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